



Washington State Council on Aging

Meeting Title: 2021 June Washington State Council on Aging Meeting
Location: Zoom Meeting

Date: 06/22/21

✓ Members Present	Appointment			Appointment
✓ Jean Kindem	At-Large East	✓	Patricia McIntyre	Pierce County Connections Advisory Council
✓ Beth Anderson	AAAD Southwest WA Advisory Council	✓	Karen Kiessling	At-Large East
Sherry Appleton (Shannon Turner)	WA House of Representatives	✓	Art Swannack	Association of Counties
Sharon Curley	At-Large West		Joe Sharkey	O3A Advisory Council
✓ Georgiann Dustin	NWRC Advisory Council	✓	Ron Vivion	Snohomish County AAA
Vacant	Central AAA	✓	Karol Stevens	Kitsap AAA Advisory Council
Lynn Ford	Lewis Mason Thurston AAA Advisory Council		Arlene Washines	Yakama Golden Eagle Advisory Council
Sandra Miles	At-Large West		Guests Present	
Ava Frisinger	ADS King County Advisory Council	✓	Susan Engels	ALTSA
✓ Marty Johnston	Aging and Long-Term Care Eastern Washington Advisory Council	✓	Walt Bowen	Senior Lobby
Sen Karen Keiser	WA State Senate	✓	Cathy Knight	W4A
✓ Michele Blythe	Association of Cities	✓	Jon Rudicil	W4A
✓ Kathy Medford	Southeast WA Aging and Long-Term Care	✓	Cathy MacCaul	AARP
✓ Rep. Kelly Chambers	WA House of Representatives	✓	Louise Ryan	ACL-Region 10



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Topic	Key Points and/or Decisions Made
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome• Review/approve agenda• Review/approve minutes• Review of current action items• Member Updates	<p>Meeting called to order at 9:02 AM.</p> <p>Members introduced themselves</p> <p>Agenda reviewed and motion made to approve.</p> <p>Minutes reviewed and approved with correction to attendance</p> <p>Reviewed current action items-all reported completed.</p> <p>Member/Organization Updates</p> <p>Karen Kiessling – the local senior center is starting some limited activities; they are also continuing to provide providing some takeout.</p> <p>Arlen Washines-Yakama Nation Clarified Yakama Nation attendance 'line' on meeting minutes</p> <p>Have not opened 100%- all employees are to report to work unless they are assigned elsewhere</p> <p>Buildings are not open to the public</p> <p>Diabetes healthy heart program is continuing. The Yakama Nation AAA is continuing to deliver meals. Currently anticipate August or September reopening of meal sites.</p> <p>100% of Elders who live within the community have been fully vaccinated.</p>



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Fred Hutchison and Portland Indian Health Services (IHS) is implementing a COVID-19 survey. It has been approved and it was started yesterday-is being done by Heritage University.

Art Swannack-Association of Counties

Working on a lot of things- County offices have been operational since June with plexiglass installed.

Have allocated and expended CARES funding- There is an allocation of 9.6 million ARP Act funding for Whitman County. It is being distributed based on population of Whitman County. The U.S. Treasury has put out guidance for spending.

Looking at infrastructure, the Court, and small business relief. Had a March start time. You can't do premium pay for workers that have already been paid- so has to be paid moving forward. Looking at Not- for Profits. The local nutrition program is currently reported well-funded. Putting money aside for future booster vaccination. The funding for broadband is not going to have a significant impact (cost per mile). Do anticipate sewer system upgrades in some areas. Will continue to get input from local communities.

Discussed installation of plexiglass, in some areas it may remain, otherwise it will be stored.

Beth Anderson- AAADSW.

Things are opening up & most stores are open-no masks. Discussed food delivery. AAADSW has openings on local advisory board. The Senior Center 'Silver Sneakers' program is open for fully vaccinated participants

Cathy Knight shared that she is really excited to be here



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Jon Rudicil introduced Cathy as new State Director for W4A, will be discussing more during W4A update.

Kathy Medford- SE ALTC

They have been engaged in discussion about senior center re-openings. Recently had Adult Protective Services presentation about abuse reporting during COVID-19 pandemic. Expressed concern about cooling centers for seniors and availability when facing very hot weather. Pleased that Yakama Nation is doing so well with elder vaccinations. Shared she is planning to come visit Jon Rudicil in Italy at some point.

Michele Blythe- Association of Cities. -

In the Arlington area the Senior Center is not fully open. Tentatively scheduled for August 2nd re-opening. In some business's masks are required, in others, not. The City Council is starting re-opening after July 4th. Vaccine site remains open for now. Good reports on vaccine site operations- it's very efficient.

Karol Stevens- Kitsap AAA

shared there are five senior centers in Kitsap County. There is a wide range of governance-some under county governance, some not for profit. Some centers are partially opening and require proof of vaccination on file and masks. One center is open at partial capacity (50%). Some others remain closed.

Ron Vivion-Snohomish County AAA

Ron reported that he listened in on a Senior Center call with the Snohomish Council on Aging. Most are planning to open in July- one is uncertain, the Municipality has not decided. All of them are providing modified services- some outside activities, some limited.

Jean Kindem reported that congregate meals sites are still progressing, the community centers are partially opening, and thinks it's going to take some time. Providence Day Health Care is open



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	<p>one day per week with restrictions on social distance. A lot of concern among the elderly about people coming to their door. Reminds people to keep vaccination record available.</p> <p>Art shared that the State data on vaccination in counties is not including all, e.g., federal pharmacy data, some student data and veteran data So anticipate Whitman percent of vaccination is actually higher.</p> <p>Art provided a reminder that ARPA funding is available for NFP's. The Department of Commerce has also set up information online.</p> <p>Georgiann thanked members for all their information.</p>
ALTSA Update	<p>ALTSA update-Susan Engels, Office Chief State Unit on Aging</p> <p>Inquired if any members have any particular topics they want to discuss. Kathy Medford- has guidance gone out on how AAA's can spend money? And a Trust Fund update.</p> <p>Discussed American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding</p> <p>Match funding is required for ARP funding- the State is providing a third of it for this year and State is providing additional state funding for match. ALTSA has been engaged in conversations with the Governor's Office.</p> <p>Developing Decision Packages (DP') for next legislative session for needed funding.</p> <p>Working on State-federal contracts, to be followed by ARP funding. ARP funding can be used for existing OAA Titles and also soc isolation activities, vaccine distribution. Existing flexibilities under the Major Disaster Declaration continue. SUA will be putting out in contracts with the first years with of funding.</p>



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Because of MAC and TSOA under the demonstration program the first 5 years, Senior Services Act, family caregiver funding and State funding was pledged to the demonstration. So, until January, if approved, these dollars will be committed.

Decision packages/request legislation

One opportunity that DDA had during the recent legislative session, because they already have a Trust Fund, the legislature was able to direct funding to their Trust Fund and that provides time for DDA to consider how to spend (and not constrained by fiscal year).

So will be DP for ALTSA that addresses establishing a similar Trust Fund.

Susan explained the DP process and the final approval needed by the Governor's Office.

Kathy Medford asked how this money would be spent.

The Legislature made some decisions about how it would be used-e.g., AAA case management received funding to address expenses related to extra work during COVID-19 pandemic.

143 million of the ARP funding was held waiting for more guidance from CMS (via governor line-item veto) so the legislature could decide in the next session.

If trust fund is established, it would allow more time for planning how to spend.

Discussed the statewide spending plan (distributed to Council earlier via email)

Discussed related stake holder process.

The legislature has instructed items should not have bow wave requiring future spending.



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Discussed Biden Administration interest in advancing direct workforce issues in HCBS and residential settings. Considering submitting a white paper to submit with ALTSA working in concert with stakeholders that may include the following:

There is focus on the ALTSA caseload ratio (to get it down). HCS is currently 80:1 (70:1 counting case aides). ALTSA would like to get it down to 50:1 ratio on average (current estimate cost at 200 million).

(DDA conducted a study on caseload ratio. The outcome is recommendation that DDA caseloads are 35:1.)

Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA). This is income people are able to keep above poverty level. Increasing the amount individuals are able to keep (to pay mortgage, rent etc.). DDA does not have PNA, but ALTSA does. Hard to maintain standard of living at Federal Poverty Level.

Filling gaps in services, addressing Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requirements and housing needs- an area that is broad and needs more in-depth exploration.

Social Isolation update

There are currently three initiatives.

1.Embedding robotic pets-Getting policy barriers away from Title XIX and investment with Title 3B to provide 700 participants with this support.

2.Get Set Up- a digital platform- that will provide technical assistance on how to use to access supports, e.g., Zoom classes-the training will provided by peer trainers, connecting with telehealth, online banking, grocery orders and in general, how to bridge the digital divide. All sorts of classes are available, wide range of topics.



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	<p>https://www.getsetup.io/partner/Washington</p> <p>3. Platform for caregiver supports Improvement for caregivers to engage. To access on free time to engage, if not digital inclined, ALTSA will provide hard copy of trainings available. Also supports for AAA case manager- provides a dashboard about caregiver engagement. Purchasing 1000 licenses. Should be up and running in next months.</p> <p>Jean Kindem asked how many will be answering questions on 'Get Set Up'. Susan shared they have a call center and provide some basic demonstration information. Georgiann reported that she was in the test group, and she received call back within 10 minutes.</p>
Administration on Community Living (ACL) Region 10 Update	<p>Louise Ryan-Administration on Community Living (ACL) Region 10 Update</p> <p>Louise is Region 10 Regional Administrator at ACL a division of Health and Human Services (HHS).</p> <p>She reported her past work history- Assistant Long-Term Care Ombudsman, then State Ombuds for 5 years, then went to ACL to work national LTCO program. Now back to work more locally. In addition to states in the region, she works with 80 Tribal grantees.</p> <p>She will talk about ACL, current Administration initiatives and COVID funding.</p> <p>Allison Barkov is current the acting ACL Administrator. A permanent appointment will be made in the near future.</p> <p>Recommends Council members sign up to be on the ALC email distribution list.</p>



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Defined ACL- was Administration on Aging until 2012 when it was merged with other Administrations. More information about ACL history may be found here: <https://acl.gov/about-acl/history>

ACL includes the OAA program, Traumatic Brain Injury, Lifespan Respite, SHIBA, is the federal home for Adult Protective Services (APS), Senior Medicare Patrol, a whole range Developmental Disability Councils funded, Rehabilitation and Protection and Advocacy programs (P&A).

ACL also looks at how we can cross coordinate. How we can support coordination with LTCO and P & A as an example.

What a Regional Administrator does-

To be a resource , to be interface with other HHS admins at regional level, discussed recent example of inter-agency coordinated response to COVID-19 pandemic.

The main focus is on providing technical assistance to states (State Units on Aging) e.g., consultation to states and tribes about how to use COVID federal funding. ACL also provides specific guidance online and links to resources.

Discussed the amount of COVID-19 funding supplementals to tribes and the state.

Have addressed state concerns about being able to spend money on time by providing no cost extensions.

Biden Administration priorities

Priority focus on implementing national strategy for addressing COVID. With emphasis on equity regarding testing, vaccines and protecting work force with adequate access to PPE

<https://wecandothis.hhs.gov/covidcommunitycorps>



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Getting funding from CDC to go to rural areas to provide vaccines and related infrastructure, e.g., transportation to vaccine site, in home vaccines, addressing vaccine hesitancy.

Created special call-in line for people with disabilities about how to access vaccines- done in coordination with N4A.

There have been good outcomes with coordination with CDC.

Had the opportunity to meet with the HHS Director (along with other Regional Administrators). The core message was we are to think bold on policy and program.

Discussed Biden Administration focus on how to build caregiver infrastructure and address pay for direct care workforce.

Other focus areas include strengthening HCBS, addressing social isolation and supporting family caregivers.

Discussed Elder Justice activities and APS- just recognized World Elder Justice Day (World Elder Abuse Awareness)

<https://ncea.acl.gov/WEAAD.aspx>

Very excited that formula grants were provided through congressional funding/ARPA hoping to build on this.

LTCO program- discussed COVID impact and challenges. We try to work with CMS on challenges with access to residents in facilities.

Jean Kindem stated that when working with neighbors with dementia, important to remember people don't deal with acronyms, e.g., ACL.



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<p>Partner Updates AARP Senior Lobby W4A</p>	<p><u>Senior Lobby-Walt Bowen</u></p> <p>Had presentation on LTCO and an APS Elder Abuse Awareness presentation.</p> <p>The State Ombuds shared that LTCO need more volunteers for the Ombuds program, will be putting out a facility schedule.</p> <p>Discussed JLEC on Aging and Disability Issues</p> <p>Senior Lobby is exploring returning to face-to-face meetings in September.</p> <p>The Fall Senior Lobby Conference in October will continue to be virtual meeting.</p> <p>There is a 15% higher rate of retirement currently. going- So more retirees should be available for volunteer services.</p> <p><u>W4A- Jon Rudicil and Cathy Knight</u></p> <p>Discussed upcoming joint conference- it will be a virtual meeting.</p> <p>Speakers-Cathy shared there are plans for Bea Rector or Bill Moss to present on the State perspective. (Remember last year we were worried about major cuts)</p> <p>Had Sandi Markwood and Bob Blancato last year- how does the Council think about same for this year? Council members shared they think it's important to have federal perspective and they were both good speakers.</p> <p>The conference will include focusing on OAA and role of AAA's.</p>
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Also want to make sure that the SCOA Legislative Priorities are shared.

Art asked why the conference is going with a virtual format

Jon responded that there's a timing issue with logistics, travel restrictions on staff being unknown at this time and concurrent planning needed to be done.

Cathy shared that people love in meeting in person and also points out higher participation rate with virtual meeting format.

Pat McIntyre recommended consideration for hybrid meetings moving forward.

AARP-Cathy MacCaul

AARP is focused on broadband access, identifying individuals that don't have access.

Prior to COVID AARP was focused on prescription drug prices- will now be taking bold steps at federal and state level.

Continuing to focus on worker discrimination <https://www.aarp.org/politics-society/advocacy/info-2021/congress-protect-older-workers.html>

AARP was just awarded a grant for older adults and providing digital access training. There will be 250% FPL requirement.

Tip off and Rip offs campaign- we've been partnering with NOBO ROBO about most pervasive robo dials. There are still a lot of people vulnerable to these scams. The pandemic made it worse –consumer loss doubled. Have incredible videos of behind the scenes how the scams operate.



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Also have been working on the LTC Trust Act- now 'WA CARES'.

AARP Federal Priorities:

Credit for Caregiving – <https://www.aarp.org/caregiving/financial-legal/info-2021/new-credit-for-caring-act.html>

EBB – Emergency Broadband Benefit – <https://www.hca.wa.gov/emergency-broadband-benefit-program>

Prescription Drug Pricing – <https://www.aarp.org/politics-society/advocacy/info-2021/biden-letter-prescription-drug-costs.html>

POWADA - Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination <https://www.aarp.org/politics-society/advocacy/info-2021/congress-protect-older-workers.html>

AARP Events and Opportunities:

June 30 Tip Offs and Rip Offs Wenatchee Event <https://states.aarp.org/washington/wenatchee-tip-offs-to-rip-offs-free-consumer-event>

Skills for the Digital Economy - <https://www.aarp.org/aarp-foundation/our-work/income/Skills-for-the-digital-economy.html/?cmp=SNP-FDN-FOUNDATION-FDN-WASStateGrant-4705-FB-202105-standard-Multi-WASState>

July 29 Tip Offs and Rip Offs Olympia Event - <https://states.aarp.org/washington/olympia-tip-offs-to-rip?CMP=RDRCT-CSN-FRAUD-061521>



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Committee Updates	<p><u>Legislative Committee Update</u></p> <p>Focused discussion on planning for Art and Michele to lead in September</p> <p><u>Public Awareness Committee Update</u></p> <p>Discussed effective ways to get letters to the editor published</p> <p>Thinking about how we could be involved in the October virtual joint conference and do outreach. If anyone has ideas, please email Kathy Medford.</p> <p><u>Social Isolation & Engagement Committee</u></p> <p>Distributed the Committee Report to Council members, encourage members to use document with local AAA and aging network partners. Letter to the Governor is being drafted</p> <p>The Committee will be focusing on aging in place and addressing social isolation.</p>
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Nominating Committee	<u>Nominating Committee</u> The Nominating Committee presented a slate. For each of the elected positions: Chairperson: Georgiann Dustin Vice Chairperson: Kathy Medford Secretary: Karen Kiessling Nominations are now open, and made public, are there others? If so, please send by email to Ron Vivion.		
New Business	New Business Snohomish County will provide a report on Senior Centers at the September meeting. There will also be a presentation from the Washington Traffic Commission. Public Comment-None Meeting adjourned.		
ACTION ITEMS		Assignee	Due Date
Excellence in Action Nominations Request to AAA Directors		Rosemary Biggins Nominating Committee	June/ and August Reminder
New Member Nominations		AAA's & Rosemary Biggins	ASAP
Update Member Resource Manual		Rosemary Biggins	September